

NEWINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
NEWINGTON TOWN HALL
131 CEDAR STREET
CONFERENCE ROOM I, ROOM 117
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2011
7:00 P.M.

I. MEMBERS PRESENT

CHAIRMAN THOMAS SHIELDS
COMMISSIONER KEVIN CHICK (ALTERNATE)
COMMISSIONER JAMES MAROCCHINI
COMMISSIONER DAVID MARSDEN
COMMISSIONER GREGORY POLK
COMMISSIONER FERNANDO ROSA
COMMISSIONER THOMAS BOWEN
ABSENT
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL GERHART
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL LONGO
COMMISSIONER DANA WOODS (EXCUSED)

ALSO PRESENT,

TOWN PLANNER AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, ED MEEHAN

II. MEETING MINUTES – JUNE 1, 2011

Commissioner Marsden made a motion to accept the June 1, 2011 minutes and Commissioner Marocchini seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chip Stamm voiced his concern regarding the lack of signage at Constitution Square. Commissioner Polk agreed that there should be a feasible and decorative sign. Chairman Shields suggested making this recommendation to the Town Council, which would be managed under the Town Manager's contingency budget. This includes standard street signs operated through the town's Traffic division. Commissioner Polk will gather input from the Downtown Business Association. Rose Lyons was also interested in Constitution Square business owners having their interests addressed via the Downtown Business Association.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. CONSTITUTION SQUARE – MUNICIPAL PARKING LOT SIGNAGE

Mr. Meehan passed around Sketch B depicting signage for Constitution Square and Commissioner Bowen agreed that input from the Downtown Business Association would be helpful. Mr. Meehan will approach the Downtown Business Association with this information.

B. NEWINGTON BUSINESS PARK – WILLARD AVENUE OCCUPANCY

Chairman Shields reported that Huttig Windows is the only company at Newington Business Park and 5 acres of outside space is available for occupancy. Mr. Meehan distributed the floor plan of the Newington Business Park to members of the commission. Chairman Shields encouraged members to keep this information in mind in its dealings with the public as to what space is available in Newington Business Park.

C. SOUSA CORPORATION 555 CEDAR STREET

Mr. Meehan noted that this heat treating company will occupy 34,000SF with building permits issued, the roof being replaced and moving expected to take place without shutting down their present business.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. REPORT OF COMMISSIONER BUSINESS DISTRICTS

Chairman Shields reported that the State will pay /\$450,000.00 for the access road at Fenn and Cedar to the busway station and National Welding property. Mr. Meehan explained how this came about through the State DOT offering to pay for the access road and this will be discussed at the September 13, 2011 Town Council meeting, where the possibility of \$820,000.00 TOD grant application will be discussed. Chairman Shields reports that he is also working with the State to get brownfield money to demolish the welding site. Mr. Meehan added that there are 28 applications for the 5 million dollars which are due September 15, 2011, which Mr. Meehan explained in detail is a complicated process. The grants will be awarded in January, 2012.

Commissioner Polk reported that Finn Bque's reopened at night for dinner and there will be lunches and dinners on weekends only. On the 15th of September they will be open for lunches and dinners.

Commissioner Marocchini noted that the USA Motel has been sold and Commissioner Marsden added that the Holiday Express building is almost completed.

B. STATUS OF MARKET SQUARE STREETSCAPE PROJECT BID SCHEDULE

Mr. Meehan reported that the bid was awarded on June 28, 2011 and the contractor has completed the initial work on the trees and conferred with the Town Engineer that the job should be completed by November 15, 2011.

C. NATIONAL WELDING

Please see above, V.A.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Rose Lyons expressed her concerns regarding the signage at Constitution Square and also the lack of Stop Signs. She also viewed interest regarding the development of the former Food Mart and the allocation of \$450,000.00 being awarded to the Town of Newington as mentioned in Numeral Number V.A., and its ramifications to the town.

Mr. Meehan announced that the Liberty Bank will open on September 14, 2011. Also, the Farmington Bank has submitted its plans to the Town of Newington Planning and Zoning Commission.

The Waterfall Festival will be held September 23, 2011 and September 24, 2011 including a carnival, 60 vendors and a Chalk Artist competition with a \$50.00 First Prize.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Marocchini made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Rosa made a second motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sophie Glenn
Recording Secretary